

Virginia

Pleas

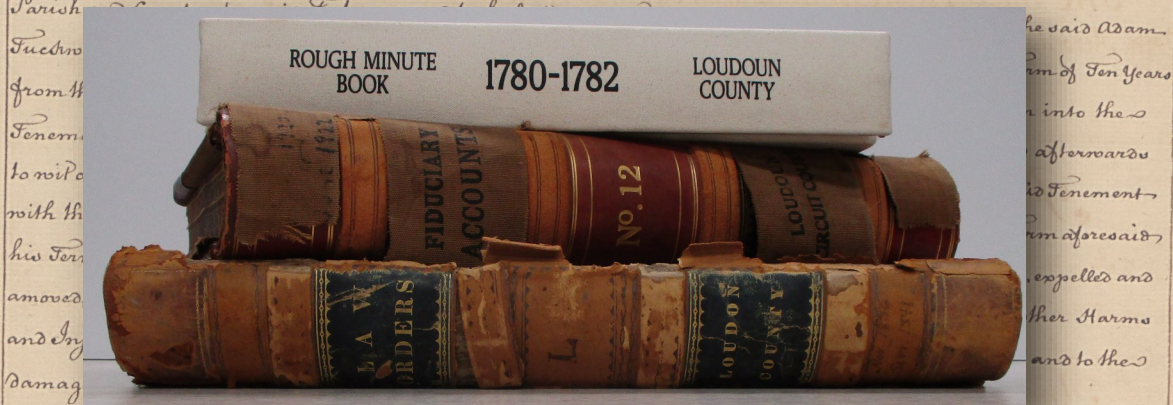
at Loudoun County Court house, Before the Justices of the said County Court on the
fourteenth day of September in the Year of our Lord God One thousand seven hundred and fifty seven, and
in the Thirty first Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the second by the Grace of God of Great
Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c.

"Little Gems"

Adam Tuckworth by William Ellzey his Attorney brought to said Court there
a certain Bill against Edmund Duckworth in Custody of a certain Person and there
are Pledges of Prosecuting to wit John Doe and Richard Roe which Bill follows in these words.

Loudoun to wit

Adam Tuckworth complains of Edmund Duckworth in Custody &c For that whereas Charles
Graham on the first day of March MDCCLVIJ at the Parish of Cameron and County aforesaid had demised granted
and to farm let unto the said Adam one Mesuage and Fifty acres of Land with the Appurtenances situate in the
Parish of Cameron and County aforesaid



You may perceive by this Declaration in Ejectment that I am sued for the premises or some part thereof
to which I have no Title, If therefore you claim any thereto and intend to defend it you must appear at the
next Court to be held for this County on the second Monday in August next and make your Defence otherwise,
I shall suffer Judgment to pass against me by Default and you will be turned out of Possession
To Mr. James Rogers Tenant
in Possession of the Premises or some part thereof,
Loudoun to wit

Francis Elgin came before me and made Oath
James Rogers with a true Copy of the within Declaration in Ejectment
Notice underneath indorsed Certified under my hand this 28th day of

Whereupon the said Edmund Duckworth
Clerk of the Circuit Court - Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records

Volume 3 Issue 3 April 2018

"Little Gems" is a quarterly newsletter published by the Clerk of the Circuit Historic Records Division. "Little Gems" refers to a binder of interesting references compiled by retired Deputy Clerk, Louisa Hutchison. Since the formation of the county, the Clerks have squirreled away notes which listed things to remember, interesting facts, and things that were just down right oddities. Over time these notes went from scraps of paper tucked in desks or books, to an organized binder, now called the "Book of Little Gems." The Historic Records newsletter is meant to provide you information about upcoming programs and exhibits, updated indexes, processed records, tips for research, as well as some articles on a few of the "little gems" we have found.

Cover

Background-A page from the 1757 Land Use book.

Two 19th century order books whose leather covers are suffering from red rot. The covers and binding are bad but the pages are in good condition.

Rough Minute Book 1881-1872- This book was removed from its original binding, the pages repaired, placed in Mylar sleeves, and bound in a post binder. Conservation was paid for the by the Ketocin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 2017.

Did You Know the paper used in the above books will out live most of the paper and books produced in the last 150 years? If you want to know why, come to the Conservation First Friday event in June to learn more.



“Little Gems”

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See page 19 for details of
NACo Award.

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THE MANAGER’S ORDER BOOK: Preparing Tomorrow’s Historic Records: The Preservation Challenge of Current Court Files.

The court clerks of yesteryear, and the clerk of the 21st century are confronted with the same challenges of maintaining the records through proper storage, providing access, and securing financial resources. However, there is a difference between the past and present clerks when it comes to the different platforms associated with court records. Until recently, most clerks had to work with only a paper platform of records and access. In the last fifty years, clerks have begun working in a number of platforms of records and retrieval, that include paper, microfilm, microfiche, digital imaging and computer access. These multiple platforms of records can lead to challenges of supplying the same level of preservation, access and funding to all court records.

Educating the staff can be the most productive and cost effective tool of preservation. Since court staffs are constantly working in the present, they often don’t have the time, staff or resources to take preventative measures to preserve the most current records. Just recognizing today’s files as tomorrow’s historic records is a good start. Simple preservation techniques not only preserves a file, but also allows for quicker access to the records. The staff and customers in Historic Records, for example, have found that conserving the more recent Land Tax Books not only saved the book, but also speeds up the process of looking up individual taxes. Historic Records is also scanning all its microfiche, not only for preservation, but to provide the staff and public easier access to the 1992-2000 property taxes.

The vast majority of the court records are public domain and can be viewed by anyone. The demand for 24/7 access to the records, both historic and current, is being driven by the age of the internet. Two decades ago many of the online services we experience today could only be accomplished during normal working hours. In less than a generation, the public and private sector had to create a new standard of fast and efficient customer service utilizing web base services. Some of the most frequently asked questions include online availability, email capability and payment options. Today citizens are looking for the same online experience with court services as they do with online banking and shopping.

One of the most difficult challenges is funding for conservation, storage and staff resources. Most states have programs in place that provided guidance and procedures in managing court records. Funds are raised by fees attached to court filings to fund preservation, scanning, storage, and data retrieval. Virginia has fees on court documents that provide preservation grants and technology funds to Virginia clerks. Another source of funding is from individuals and organizations. In 2017, for example, the Daughters of the American Revolution donated funds to preserve Revolutionary War period records.

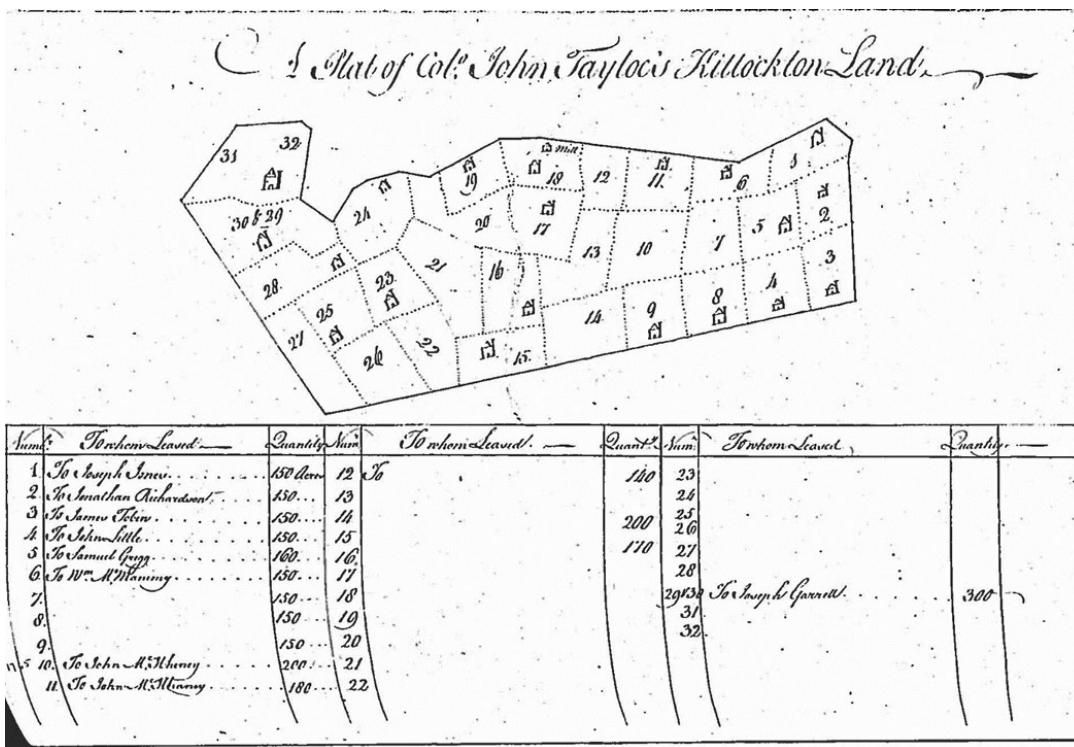
In conclusion, use the current preservation practices to conserve archival records, and apply them to the most recent records. The technology, supplies, and administrative process are similar between front line clerk staff and archival staff responsible for preservation. Staff should take a vested interest in all court records, no matter if it’s from 1757 or 2018. In our office, we have employees from other divisions working on projects in Historic Records that preserves and provides greater access to some of our oldest and current records. Projects includes indexing all the Chancery records with slaves, and another is scanning our 20th century Fiduciary Order Books.

Everyday court clerks from all over the United States are recording, indexing and scanning tomorrows’ historic records. This is an important characteristic to follow to prepare today’s records for the next generation of court clerks. The preservation of all of Loudoun court records since 1757 is the ability of its clerks and deputy clerks taking proactive steps to preserve its records to the next generation.

"Little Gems:" Loudoun County's First Subdivision? By: Sarah Markel

Every day in almost every form of media you will find people for or against building new houses in Loudoun County. Whether you are for or against the idea of growth and subdividing land, I will leave up to you. But, in reading the letters to the Editor and articles about the growth in the county I got to thinking about what was the first or earliest record I could find about a subdivision in Loudoun County?

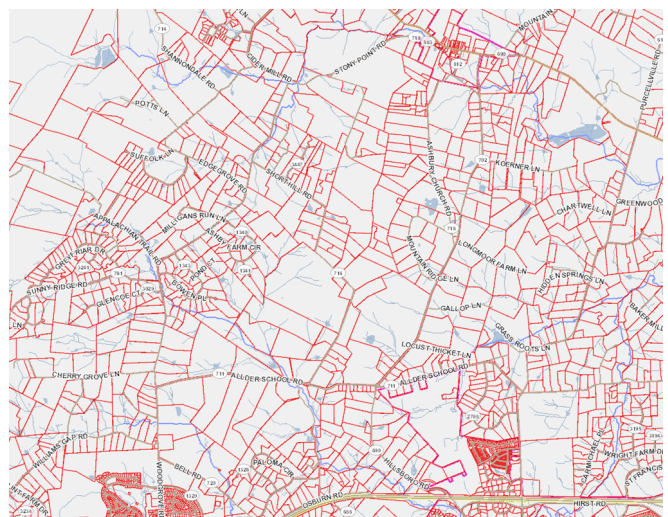
In our Book of "Little Gems," I found an entry by a former clerk that stated: "First Subdivision in County Deed Book A Page 232." As you can see in the image below, Colonel John Tayloe, divided up his land into 32 lots, and on the plat listed the names of people he leased his land to and the acreage associated with each lot. It appears that Mr. Tayloe did not live on this land but instead used it as an income property. As we know Loudoun County formed from Fairfax County in 1757, and the plat shown below is from 1758. So within one year of Loudoun's formation the landscape was already changing into the patchwork image we know today.



Loudoun County
Deed Book A Page 232
1758

To date we have scanned all of our Deed Books, Will Books, and Plats. By scanning these books and plats we are able to access them electronically instead of having to place a very large heavy book on the photocopier each time a customer wants a copy. By being able to access the scans we will be able to preserve the original record for decades to come and provide copies to customers in a more timely manner.

Loudoun County Assessors
Office WebLogis System with
image of present day Loudoun



The Future of Land Tax Books

By Alyssa Fisher

In the digital age, many people expect both old and new records to be kept in a digital format. If patrons view digital images, the original document is handled less and exposed to less light preventing further damage to the record. Digital images are more easily printed for copies, providing better customer service. High resolution scans can allow patrons to view fine details of the original record through zoom capabilities in document viewing software. While digitization can provide many benefits, there are some drawbacks with the process. Additional equipment, staff, time, and money is often necessary to create digital records. Technology constantly evolves, which requires old digital formats to be reformatted to fit the newest technology. Additionally, the tangibility of the original record, the texture and the smell, is no longer a part of the experience for the viewer with digital images. Luckily, court records are kept in both formats in the Historic Records division, allowing patrons to view digital versions, but also see originals if they so choose.



One of two Land Tax Books for 1974, considerably larger than the one microfiche sheet of 1992, and box of Land Tax Books on microfiche from 1992 through 1999.



Microfiche reader viewing one page on a microfiche sheet.

All of the Deed Books and Will Books for Loudoun County are digitized and can be viewed in digital format. Currently, Historic Records staff is working to digitize other loose papers and documents. One set of records patrons frequently request to view are the Land Tax Books. Land Tax Books provide property assessments for each year, beginning with the earliest book in 1851 and continuing up to today.¹ For more recent property assessments, the Commissioner of Revenue's office has provided a website which allows researchers to view property assessments online. Assessment records older than the time frame the Commissioner of Revenue is required to keep can be found in Historic Records and Deed Research.

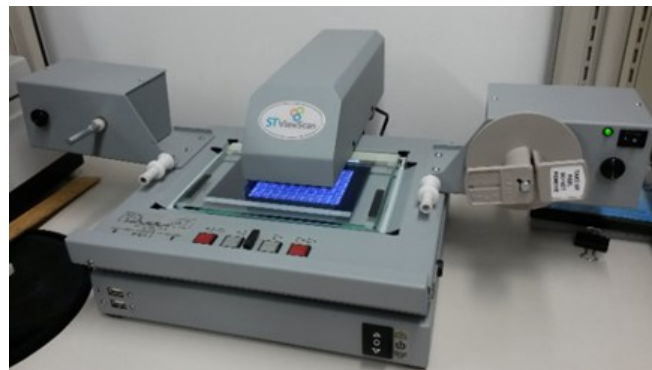
Each commissioner of the revenue shall file a copy of the land book in the office of the clerk of the circuit court of his county or city. Such clerk shall preserve such copies in his office, but the commissioner of the revenue need not preserve the original nor the treasurer his copy for a longer period than six years following the tax year to which such books relate. The commissioner or the clerk may satisfy the requirements of this section by use of (i) paper; (ii) microfilm, microfiche, or any other microphotographic process; or (iii) electronic process. [VA Code §58.1-3310](#)

¹ Some of the early Land Tax Books from the 1800s and early 1900s are missing or are incomplete.

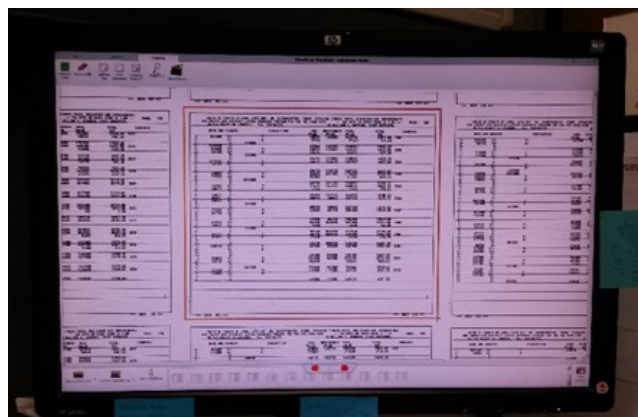
As the Code of Virginia states, copies of the Land Tax Books can be stored on paper, microfilm/microfiche, or electronically. Loudoun County's property assessments are found on all three types of media. Land Tax Books from 1851 to 1991 are paper copies, the earliest of which are handwritten records. Land Tax Books from 1992 to 2000 can be found on microfiche. Property assessment records after 2000 are digitally maintained. The current project for preserving these records is to digitize the microfiche and paper copies.

Microfiche can be a useful tool for maintaining a high volume of records, such as the Land Tax Books. Microfiche sheets with recorded property assessments

measure 4" x 5 3/4," and contain an average of 206 pages on each sheet. The number of properties listed on each sheet is an estimated 2,884 properties. While microfiche is still an accepted form for maintaining Land Tax Books, it is becoming an outdated form of technology. Microfiche sheets require a Microfiche reader. If the Microfiche reader can no longer be maintained, and a new one can no longer be found, the information on the microfiche sheets will be more difficult to view. Microfiche can be read with proper light and extreme



The ST ViewScan scanner photographing microfiche and creating digital images of a Land Tax Book.



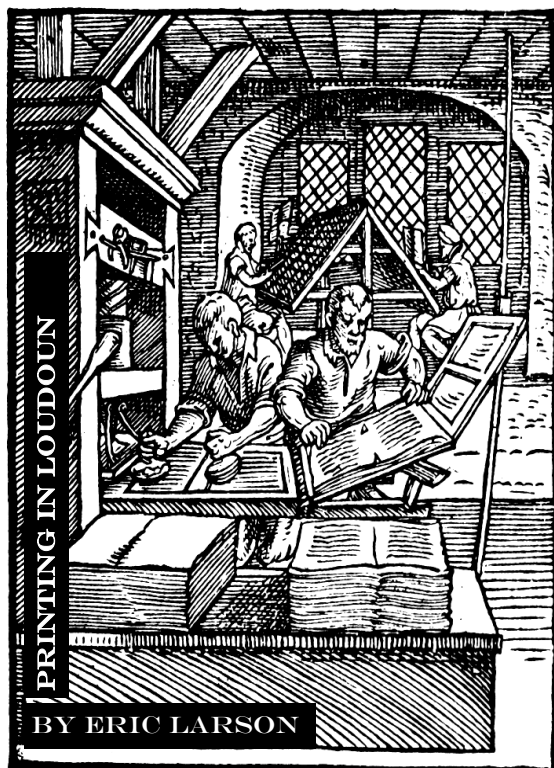
A selected Land Tax Book page on microfiche in the process of being digitized using ST Imaging Premium Software.

magnification, but it is easier with an actual microfiche reader. Additionally, the microfiche reader in Historic Records cannot be connected to a printer, therefore viewers must write down the information, instead of receiving a printed hard copy.

My current project is to digitize Land Tax Books on microfiche using an ST ViewScan scanner with ST Imaging Premium Software. Each microfiche sheet is placed beneath a glass plate and camera in the scanner. The software enables me to capture an image of each page on the sheet, one by one. The microfiche and glass plate are manually maneuvered to choose which page on the microfiche is to be captured. Because the microfiche is a negative image of the Land Tax Book, the software comes equipped with the capability to create a positive image, so

that the background of the page when copied is white and the letters and numbers are black. To make the images clearer, the software also includes camera focus capabilities, and adjustable contrast, brightness, light levels, and sharpening.

Though the process can be somewhat tedious because of the number of Land Book pages per sheet, the end result is well worth the effort. Digital versions of each page found in the Land Tax Book can be printed individually so that patrons no longer have to write down the information. More importantly, in the event that something happens to the microfiche or the microfiche reader, the digital version ensures that Historic Records & Deed Research has a copy of that Land Tax Book preserved.



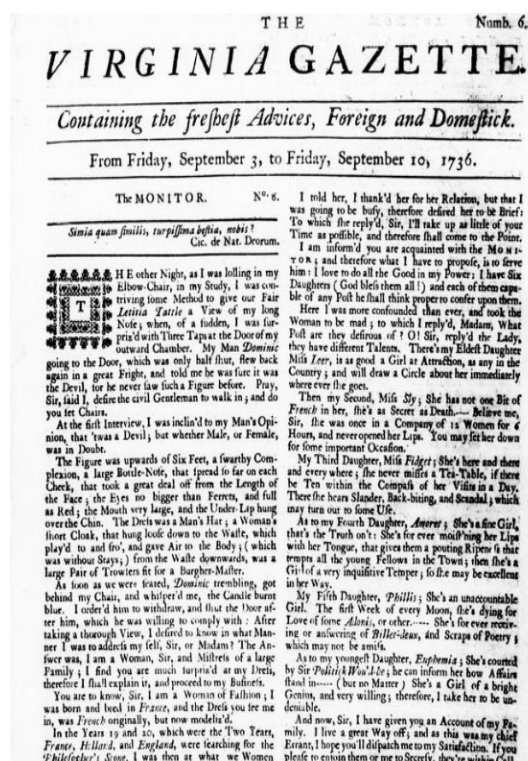
I'VE WORKED in the clerk's office for eleven years and always dreamed of the day when I would find court documents related to Loudoun's 18th and 19th century printing trade. I grew up in a family of printers, my dad, grandfather, and uncle all worked for printing companies in Canton, Ohio. As a child, I remember our family vacations to Colonial Williamsburg, and my dad taking me, my brother, and sister to the printer on the Duke of Gloucester Street. I recall watching the printers on a hot August day toiling away on a 18th century printing press producing copies of the *Virginia Gazette*. It was from my family's trade in printing and trips to Colonial Williamsburg that I established my lifelong passion of books and history.

In early 2018, I found a 1820 Bill of Sale related to printing in early 19th century Loudoun. The Bill of Sale I found in the court deed packets was a sale of a "Printing Press Computer" and all its equipment. I soon discovered that this record pertained to the history of the printing and the newspaper business in Loudoun County. This Bill of Sale was for the printing equipment from the first two publishers of Loudoun's earliest successful newspaper, *The Genius of Liberty*.

BRIEF HISTORY OF PRINTING IN VIRGINIA

From the founding of Virginia in 1607 to the 1720s, there were no printers in the colony. All books, legal forms, and newspapers had to be imported into Virginia from other colonies or England. Virginia's early governors strictly enforced a no printers rule because they perceived printing as a threat to their power and the colony's political stability.¹ It wasn't until 1728, that the colony of Virginia authorized a printed publication of the laws from each Virginia Assembly session. With no printers in Virginia, these assembly publications were printed in Maryland.

In 1730, Virginia's colonial government "authorized" the establishment of a printing press in Virginia. The growth of the colony, and especially the increase in runaway slaves, required information to be distributed to a larger population. The most effective way to distribute this legal information was through newspapers and printed colonial decrees. In 1732, the Virginia colony commissioned William Park "Printer of the Colony" and granted him the rights to print other material as long as it didn't interfere with his "public works."² Four years later in 1736, Park established the colony's first newspaper in Williamsburg, Virginia, the *Virginia Gazette*. The printing trade had finally arrived in Virginia.

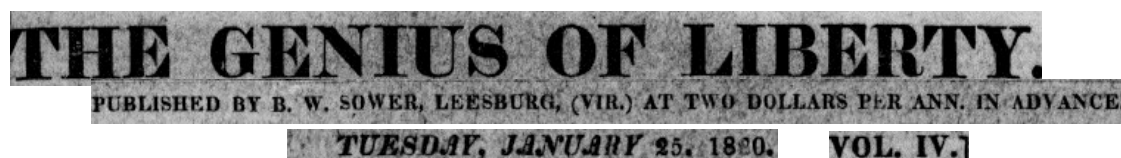


1 https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Printing_in_Colonial_Virginia#start_entry

2 https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Printing_in_Colonial_Virginia#start_entry

Samuel.B.T. Caldwell was the first publisher of *The Genius of Liberty* newspaper and published the first edition on January 10, 1817. *The Genius of Liberty will be published once a week on good medium papers, at two dollars per annum, payable in advance, or two dollars and fifty cents.*³ After two years, Caldwell found the business of printing and newspaper publishing difficult and decided to sell the paper to B.W. Sowers in 1819.

*A wish to visit the western country has induced me to make a transfer of the establishment. The Genius will hereafter be conducted under the auspices of Mr. B.W. Sower, in whose firmness, integrity and ability to conduct a republican press I have the fullest confidence.*⁴



On October 13, 1819, Caldwell sold the publication to Sowers. Five days later, however, Sowers filed a Bill of Sale with the Loudoun's County Court for the sale of a press, numerous font types, and other printing materials back to Caldwell. In the October 13, 1819 issue of *The Genius of Liberty*, Caldwell further informs his readers of the sale of the publication, but also his lack of ability of running a printing business:

*My press was disordered and the typography badly executed, consequently the internal appearance of the paper has not been imposing as could be wished; yet it has withstood the whirlwind political animosity and comes out with renewed and accelerated strength.*⁵

In Caldwell's diaries at The Thomas Balch Library, he writes that his "lapses" in his diary entries was due to his frustrations of operating a printing business.⁶

The 1820 Bill of Sale listed 41 pieces of printing located "... in a certain messuage or tenement situate(d) in the Town of Leesburg..."⁷ The press was listed as "Printing Press Computer" which was a flatbed printer whose technology had changed little since Johannes Gutenberg printing press of 1439. A good printer in the late 18th century could print 200-250 pages per hour. Today, an offset press can print over 8,000 pages and hour in color.

Even though Caldwell sold the paper to Sowers, he continued to sell books and writing supplies in Loudoun. In the February 23, 1819 *Genius of Liberty*, Caldwell advertised under the heading of "*Books! Books!*" that listed adult and children books and magazines for sale. One of the books advertised, was *The Cutter; or the art and practice of cutting friends, acquaintances and relations* by Arthur Benoni Evans, was an 1808 publication that provided humorous antidotes to avoid people in public:

*"If you have received obligations from unfortunate acquaintance, whom you would cut as he approaches face to face, it may be of service to blow your nose, look at your boots..."*⁸



3 *The Genius of Liberty*, Issue 1 January 1817, page 1

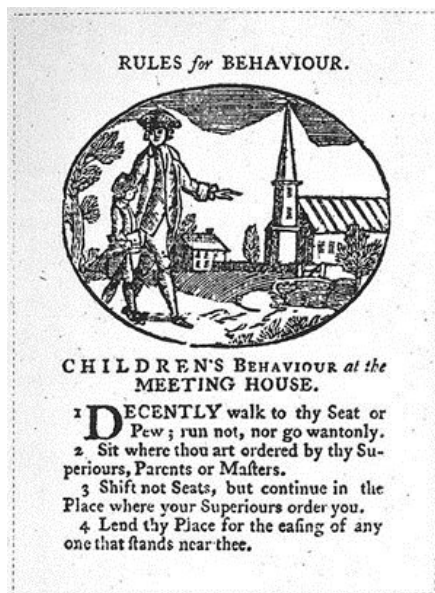
4 *The Genius of Liberty*, Issue 40 October 1819, Page 2 The newspaper was originally a pro-Democratic-Republican and then became a supporter of the Whig party until it ceased publication in the early 1840s whose last publisher was George Richards.

5 *The Genius of Liberty*, Issue 40 October 1819, page 2

6 Diaries of Samuel B.T. Caldwell, 1811-1820, (SC 0004), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, Virginia

7 Loudoun County Deed Book 3A, page 312

8 Evans, Arthur Benoni, *The Cutter; or the art and practice of cutting friends, acquaintances and relations*, Boston, 1808, page 22



Some of the children's books for sale were *John the shop-keeper turned sailor*; or, *the folly of going out of our element*. *Tom Jones*, *Juvenile Panorama* and *Child's Magazine*. Many of these children books sold by Caldwell were called cheap or chapbooks. Chapbooks were inexpensive publications that often included illustrations printed from low quality woodcuts.

After his years of printing and selling books, Caldwell went on to serve in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1831-1832 and was a founding member of the Virginia Historical and Philosophical Society. In the last years of his life, he ran a grist mill in Wheatland on Catoctin Creek. The census of 1850 listed him as a merchant, and in 1860 as a miller. Samuel B.T. Caldwell died in 1866 and was buried in the Leesburg Presbyterian Cemetery.

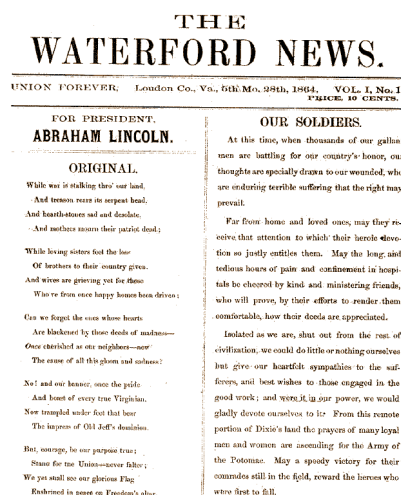
18th century Children's Chapbook woodcut

NEWSPAPERS IN LOUDOUN

Throughout the 19th century, there were several newspaper publications running concurrently with other local Loudoun papers. Like most early American newspapers, Loudoun papers were "mouthpieces" for different political parties and views of the day. The first newspaper established in Loudoun was the *True American*, published from 1798-1800 by M. Bartgis and W. Sullivan.⁹ The first long term county newspaper publication was the *Washingtonian*, which was published weekly from 1808-1903. The *Washingtonian* was started by Patrick McIntyre who also purchased the *True American* in 1800. All locally established newspapers ceased during the Civil War, however, some pro-Union papers were published in Loudoun. During the Federal occupation, *The Advance Guard Union*, *One Constitution and the Enforcement of the Laws*, was published in Loudoun from 1862-1864 by officers of the 28th Pennsylvania Regiment. Another pro-Union paper published during the war was *The Waterford News*, and was published in Waterford, Virginia from 1864-1865.¹⁰

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN LOUDOUN FROM 1798-1900.¹¹

The True American-1798-1800-Weekly
The Washingtonian-1808-1903-Weekly
The Genius of Liberty-1817-1839-Weekly
Leesburg Genius of Liberty-1839-1843-Weekly
Spirit of Democracy-1840-?-Weekly
Loudoun Whig-1845-?-Weekly
Loudoun Chronicle-1846-1853-Weekly
The Democratic Mirror-1855-1906-Weekly
The Advance Guard-1862-1864 -Union Army Publication
The Waterford News-1864-1864
Loudoun Republican-1869-1872-Weekly

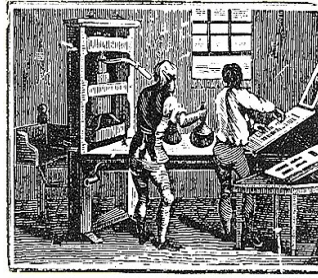
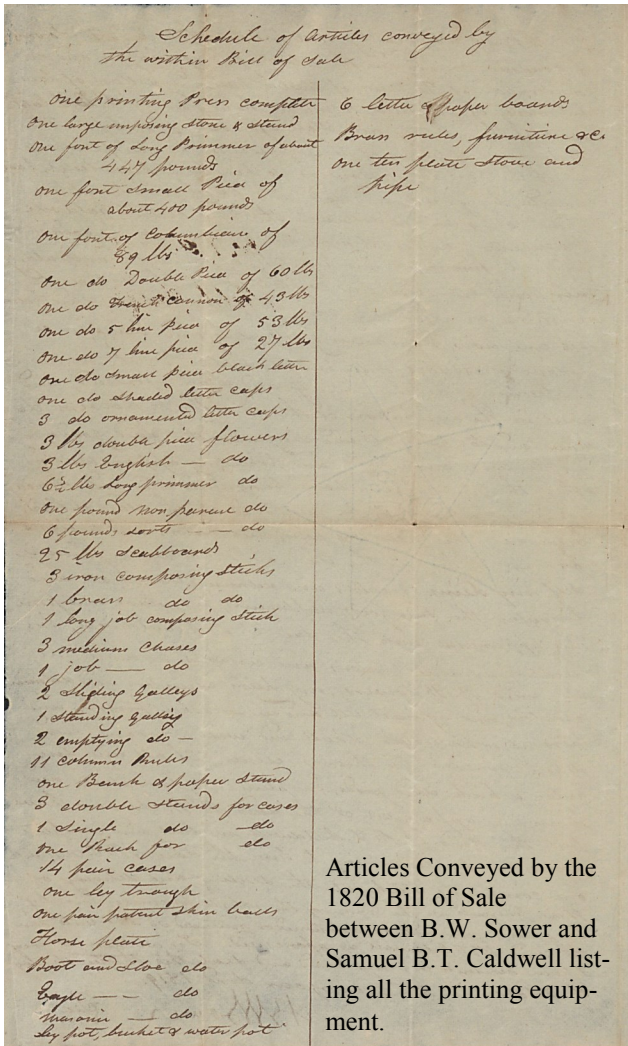


⁹ <https://www.loc.gov/r/news/18th/735.html>

¹⁰ For more information on the *The Waterford News*, www.waterfordhistory.org/history/waterford-news/

¹¹ Many of the newspapers mention in this article along with other historic Virginia newspapers can be viewed on the [Library of Virginia Webpage](http://LibraryofVirginiaWebpage) [Virginia Chronicle webpage](http://VirginiaChroniclewebpage). This website has most of the issues of *The Genius of Liberty* in PDF format.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE LISTED IN THE 1820 BILL OF SALE



One large composing stone and stand-Composing stone and stand was a table used to assemble type.
One Printing Press Computer
One Font of Long Primer of about 447 pounds
One Paper Bench Stand

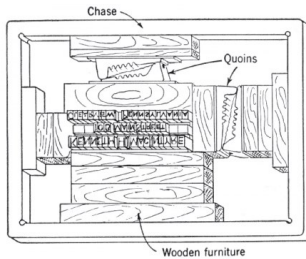
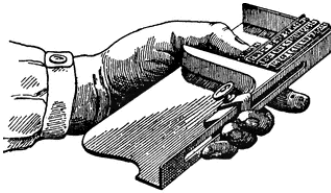


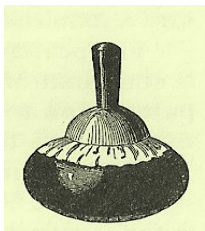
FIG. 27-3. Type form locked up ready for press.

3 Medium Chases- Chase is a metal frame that is used to hold type in the letterpress.

2 Standing Galleys- The galley is a box like device where the type from the composing is moved. Once the galley is filled, the type is locked in place ready for the printing.



3 Iron composing sticks- Composing Stick is used to place the type into words and lines. Type is then transferred into the galley.



One pair patent skin balls-Ink balls were used to apply ink to the letterpress. The ink balls were made of sheep skin and filled with wool or horsehair with a wooden handle attached to the ball.



Illustrations are from *The Genius of Liberty* that are listed in the 1820 Bill of Sale.

"What are you working on?" By: Sarah Markel

I am always surprised by how many questions I get about what projects I am currently working on and how they will benefit customers today and in the future. So in an effort to answer these questions I have decided that sticking with the theme of our June Conservation Issue, I would give you an update on the projects I am working on and the projected impact their completion will have.

Over the course of a week I have the opportunity to work on several different conservation projects. On Wednesday's my co-worker Alyssa and I are creating an index of State Highway Plats. We are currently on box 10 of 24. As State Highway Plats are recorded every day, the index will take another year to catch up to current recordings and will need to be maintained approximately once a month. When this index is brought to date it will list the major roads, parties involved, utilities, and notable landmarks. We hope this index will be helpful to our customers in being able to search the records without having to go page by page in the State Highway Plat Books.

I work at the front counter on Monday & Friday's. On these days I work on a will indexing project. We frequently have customers ask for wills for every entry they can find of a particular name. Customers do not realize that our will name index goes from 1757 through 1983 and names are often used through several generations. In order to help our customers with their research I am going through the will index and adding the year the will or fiduciary record was entered. This will help customers to decide if the name they are looking for is in the correct time period they are researching.

On Tuesdays & Thursday's, when I am not at the front counter, I am proof reading the 1757-1970's plat Index. Over the last several months I typed up the paper copy we had in our office and now I am going through this typed index and proof reading it. In proof reading it, I have found typos in the original index and have corrected them and added other references and all names listed on the document. When complete, customers will be able to easily search the typed index for subdivision names, grantor names, or book and page numbers on the computer and not have to come in to look at the original index.

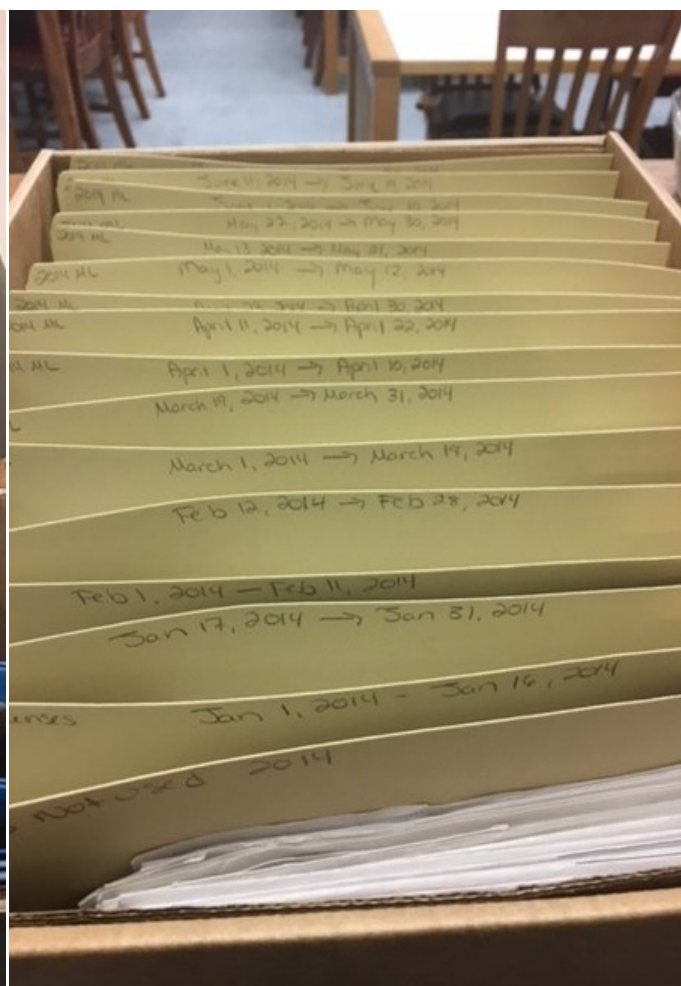
While I have described some of my ongoing projects I also have special projects that I complete throughout the year. Most recently I completed a two week conservation project of Loudoun County Marriage Licenses from 2012-2016. As Mr. Larson explained in his managers comments, people rarely think about today's records as tomorrow's Historic Records. Prior to 2012, all of the County's Marriage Licenses are conserved in acid free folders and boxes. Our "new" Marriage Licenses have been packed in bankers boxes with rubber bands and binder clips securing them. As you have read in previous newsletters rubber bands will breakdown over time sticking to the document, and metal staples and clips on paper will cause rust damage in years to come. I took the 2012-2016 marriage licenses and mended them as needed and then packed them in acid free folders and boxes removing rubber bands and metal binder clips. This will ensure that they will not be damaged by the previously mentioned fasteners.

The Historic Records Division has partnered with the Land Records/Public Service Division to ensure that each year when Marriage Licenses need to be packed away, the Historic Records team will pack them up adhering to current archival standard practices. Although this requires special conservation supplies, the Clerk of the Circuit Court is committed to ensuring that records are kept in the most pristine condition possible for generations to come. This partnership has also allowed the Historic Records Division to share knowledge about archiving documents with other departments that do not normally work with the "old stuff." By sharing this knowledge we are ensuring that current archival practices can be used on a document the moment it is recorded with the court. This puts us at a great advantage of eventually no longer playing catch up but taking a proactive approach. Loudoun County is fortunate to have a Clerk of Court that recognizes the importance of preserving items for the future and provides the supplies we need to do so.

I think that one of the best parts of my job is that every day is different. Somedays I may be helping a customer research their long lost family members from the 1800's or maybe finding a survey of their current property. As every customer has different questions and different interest in history, it is now more important than ever to review and type up old indexes and conserve ledgers, books, and loose papers. I do not know what projects or interest will bring customers to us in the future so like my co-workers I strive to bring the Archives materials into the technology age, and conserve todays records in the most mindful way possible to ensure that in the future our customers will not have to say “I wonder what those records would have said if they had survived?” because all the information will be available at their fingertips.



Loudoun County Marriage Licenses before Conservation



Loudoun County Marriage Licenses after Conservation.

~All licenses are placed in acid free folders in roughly two week increments. All rubber bands and binder clips are removed.~

We were residents of Loudoun County By Melissa Murphy

When you are curious you find lots of interesting things to do. - Walt Disney

I could not have put it better myself. I had no idea that my curiosity would take me on such an interesting and fulfilling adventure for the last few months. After getting a job with the Loudoun County Circuit Court Land Records Division I found myself neighbors with the Historic Records Division. After asking questions, exploring the Historic Records and attending their First Friday events, I asked if there was anything I could help with. They did not hesitate to hand over a project that would take on a life of its own. I was tasked with labeling the individual papers, with the case number, in each Chancery file starting from 1757 to 1940. I was lucky that an intern from the prior summer had started the project and had made a bit of a dent in the labeling so, I was able to start around 1830.

Here's where it gets interesting. I am often too curious for my own good and couldn't help but READ each document as I labeled them. What I read not only disturbed me but made me even more interested to read on. Some of the cases I was coming across had the names of people (slaves) who were being transferred, sold or hired out. I say people, but unfortunately at the time the papers were written these individuals were considered property. The first cases that caught my attention were estate disputes that included, as part of an inventory of belongings, slaves to be divided amongst the “Heirs”, some even included a “value”.

Chancery cases for this time period encompassed disputes over things such as land, crops and horses, estates of deceased individuals, tobacco and just about anything of monetary value. The decisions rendered in these cases were based on conscience and fairness rather than strict common-law. The Courts of chancery were also known as Courts of Equity.¹

After reading a few of these files Eric, the Historic Records Manager, happen to walk by and I flagged him down. We talked about the timeframe in which these suits were written and though horrible, it is a part of history we can never forget. A few days later Eric returned realizing that the people named in the Chancery Cases had never been individually documented and that it would be a great idea to create a spreadsheet to document the names, of those enslaved individuals. And the challenge began.

I have gone back to the beginning of our records in 1757 and have worked my way through to 1832 so far, reading each and every case. There are hundreds of cases involving disputes about loans, horses, tobacco and divorce. For example, if it is a case involving an estate and the complaint references “slaves” in any way, but no names are given, I cross reference the Fiduciary file from the estate to see if they listed them by name in the estates inventory. I learned that the Fiduciary file encompassed the documents dealing with the total of the estate itself. The estate would include the land, house, farming equipment, cattle, horses, each and every possession within the house AND of course the slaves. Slaves in the 18th and 19th centuries were at times more valuable than the land the decedents owned thus the reason for the disputes.

The first case I came across that caused me to look further was the 1814 case between John Fife and his wife against the estate of Charles Hungerford. The complaint was very specific about there being ten slaves up for division but, no names were included (**Photo 1**). I took the file over to archives to ask their advice on how I should note this information and began notating the specifics of what I had found. Through our conversation we were lead to the Fiduciary file in a hope that we would find the names of the people involved in this “division” of property (**Photo 2**). And sure enough not only were we able to find the names of the slaves mentioned in the complaint but many more who were never included in the Will (**Photo 3**).

I have had the privilege of locating and identifying over 1,000 slaves from different cases and circumstances and given them a voice they have not had in over 200 years. It drives me to continue to honor these people and try to find a way to give them a voice they didn't have. To say “We were here” and “We were residents of Loudoun County”. Though I have a LONG way to go I cannot wait to see what else I can find.

1. <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/faq.htm> According to Black's Law Dictionary, a chancery cause is a case of equity where “Justice is administered according to fairness as contrasted with the strictly formulated rules of common law.”

The Estate of ~~Chas~~ Hungerford to the ~~Adm~~ ^{Adm} ~~H~~ ^H ~~Jr~~ ^{Jr}
 1805. To Support 6 Slaves over 10 years old }
 from that time of the Appraisement till Jan. }
 Support about 4 months, two or three }
 of them sick and not able to work - }
 To Supporting 4 Slaves under 10 years }
 about 4 months - - - - - }
 To Support Mother & Sister Paddy, together }
 with the 10 Slaves above mentioned }
 the whole together Say \$ 30 -

Photo 1: This is an image of a document from the Chancery Case number CH1814-028. In it, it shows a brief description of caring for six slaves over 10 years old and an additional four slaves under 10 years old. This lead me to ask questions...

Loudoun Co. - Fiduciary Hungerford, Charles

Adm/Exor. Bond - 1805
 Relinquishment of Right to Administer by Mary Hungerford
 ORDER TO APPRAISE ESTATE - 1805
 INVENTORY APPRAISE - 1805 - Will Bk. G-315
 ESTATE ACCOUNT - 1810 - Will Bk. I-297 - Includes Vouchers,
 COPY OF INVENTORY, list from Mary Hungerford of property
 taken by her children, list of slaves taken to Maryland
 and list of property bought at sale (3 slaves listed on
 back side)

MARY HUNGERFORD - wife
 WILLIAM B. HUNGERFORD - son - Adm.
 ELIZABETH HICKS - dau.
 MARGARET O'NEAL - dau.
 MARY CURTIS - dau.
 NANCY READER - dau.
 ELEANOR FRYLE (D) - dau.
 PATTY HUNGERFORD - dau.

SLAVES: In INVENTORY
 BRICE - 18 years old
 SARAH - 38 years old
 EMELIA - 6 months old - child of Sarah
 GINNY - 25 years old
 MARY - 8 months old - child of Ginny
 FILLIS - 5 years old
 PEGGY - 13 years old
 HANNAH - 14 years old
 GABRIEL - 10 years old

In ESTATE ACCOUNT NOT in INVENTORY
 SENA - 3 years old - child of GIN
 ALLY - 8 months old - child of GIN
 DARR - 40 years old
 BETHY - 5 years old - child of DARR
 MILLY - 13 years old
 CLODY - 5 years old
 RACHEL - 14 years old
 LUCY - 15 years old
 BET - 5 years old
 ALLY - 9 years old
 SAM - 8 years old

Photo 2: This image shows the front page of the Fiduciary file for the estate of Charles Hungerford. As you can see it contains far more than the ten noted slaves from the document above.

Chancery	CH1814-27	1814	Fife, John & wife	White	Male	Hungerford, Charles Estate	White	Male	Brice	Black	Male	unknown	Age 18 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, part of the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Sarah	Black	Female	unknown	Age 38 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, part of the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Emelia	Black	Female	unknown	Age 6 months old, child of Sarah: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, part of the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Ginny	Black	Female	unknown	Age 25 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, part of the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Mary	Black	Female	unknown	Age 8 months old, child of Ginny: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, part of the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Fillis	Black	Female	unknown	Age 5 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, part of the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Peggy	Black	Female	unknown	Age 13 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, part of the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Hannah	Black	Female	unknown	Age 14 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, part of the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Gabriel	Black	Male	unknown	Age 10 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, part of the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Sena	Black	Female	unknown	Age 3 years old, child of Gin : Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, in the Estate account but not in the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Ally	Black	Female	unknown	Age 8 months old, child of Gin : Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, in the Estate account but not in the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Dark	Black	Male	unknown	Age 40 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, in the Estate account but not in the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Sethy	Black	Male	unknown	Age 5 years old, child of Dark: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, in the Estate account but not in the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Milly	Black	Female	unknown	Age 18 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, in the Estate account but not in the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Cloey	Black	Female	unknown	Age 5 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, in the Estate account but not in the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Rachel	Black	Female	unknown	Age 14 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, in the Estate account but not in the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Lucy	Black	Female	unknown	Age 15 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, in the Estate account but not in the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Bet	Black	Female	unknown	Age 5 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, in the Estate account but not in the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Ally	Black	Female	unknown	Age 9 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, in the Estate account but not in the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
									Sam	Black	Male	unknown	Age 8 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, in the Estate account but not in the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315

Chancery	CH1814-27	1814	Fife, John & wife	White	Male	Hungerford, Charles Estate	White	Male	Brice	Black	Male	unknown	Age 18 years old: Per cross referenced fiduciary file of Charles Hungerford, part of the inventory of the estate *see also Will Bk G-315
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Photo 3: In this close up cross section of the Chancery Spreadsheet you can see how I have been noting each of these files.



Police Blotter

By Sarah Markel



For this edition of the Police Blotter I have gone back to the very formation of the County to see what were the crimes of the day. In looking through Criminal files 1757-001 through 1757-005, I was not surprised to see that many of the cases had to do with being drunk, drunk and swearing, or drunk on the Sabbath but I was surprised to see that the same people were being charged over and over again. I think Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald sums it up best "First you take a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes you."

Case Number: 1757-001 & 1757-002

Name: Kelly, Thomas

Charge: Drunkard

Complaint: Thomas Kelly is listed on the Grand Jury Presentments for November 1757. We present Thomas Kelly of Cameron Parish for being a common drunkard within two months past.

Outcome: Found Guilty and ordered to pay 5 Shillings Fine or 50lb of Tobacco and Costs.

Note: Thomas Kelly takes the honor of being the first male charged with a criminal charge in Loudoun County.

Case Number: 1757-001 & 1757-004

Name: Noland, Peter

Charge: Common Drunkard & Profane Swearer

Complaint: Peter Noland is listed on the Grand Jury Presentments for November 1757. We present Peter Noland of Cameron Parish for being a Common Drunkard & Profane Swearer and within three months past.

Outcome: Found Guilty and ordered to pay 15 Shillings Fine and Costs

Case Number: 1757-001 & 1757-004

Name: Wells, John

Charge: Common Drunker & Profane Swearer

Complaint: John Wells is listed on the Grand Jury Presentments for November 1757. We present John Wells of Cameron Parish for being a Common Drunkard & Profane Swearer and within three months past.

Outcome: Found Guilty and ordered to pay 15 Shillings Fine and Costs

Case Number: 1757-001 & 1757-005

Name: Rachel Steer

Crime: Drunk on the Sabbath Day

Complaint: We present Rachel Steer also Lynham of Cameron Parish for being drunk on the Sabbath Day within one month past.

Outcome: Found Guilty and ordered to pay 5 Shillings and Costs

Note: Rachel Steer takes the honor of being the first female charged with a criminal charge in Loudoun County.

Stay tuned for more cases in our next edition.

P	R	I	N	T	I	N	G	P	R	E	S	S	Y	C	X
E	G	U	B	U	R	E	P	A	P	S	W	E	N	H	M
S	O	E	S	H	I	L	L	I	N	G	S	R	O	A	L
N	V	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	C	L	X	I	N	I
E	E	R	B	I	L	L	O	F	S	A	L	E	T	C	F
C	R	E	U	E	U	F	A	C	T	S	I	Q	A	E	E
I	N	E	S	N	A	S	M	V	C	E	W	M	V	R	H
L	M	R	I	A	Y	N	O	L	O	C	T	E	R	Y	C
E	E	F	N	C	O	Z	A	F	J	K	S	D	E	I	I
G	N	D	E	S	Y	W	X	Z	L	D	U	I	S	N	F
A	T	I	S	E	Z	I	T	I	G	I	D	A	N	D	O
I	A	C	S	R	E	D	L	O	F	R	B	Q	O	E	R
R	L	A	D	R	I	N	K	N	I	T	V	E	C	X	C
R	P	N	O	I	S	I	V	I	D	B	U	S	R	E	I
A	K	O	O	B	X	A	T	D	N	A	L	I	Z	T	M
M	L	F	N	O	I	T	P	I	R	C	S	B	U	S	Y

Can you find these words in the puzzle above?

ACID FREE
BILL OF SALE
BUG
BUSINESS
CASE
CHANCERY
COLONY
CONSERVATION
DIGITIZE
DIRT
DRINK

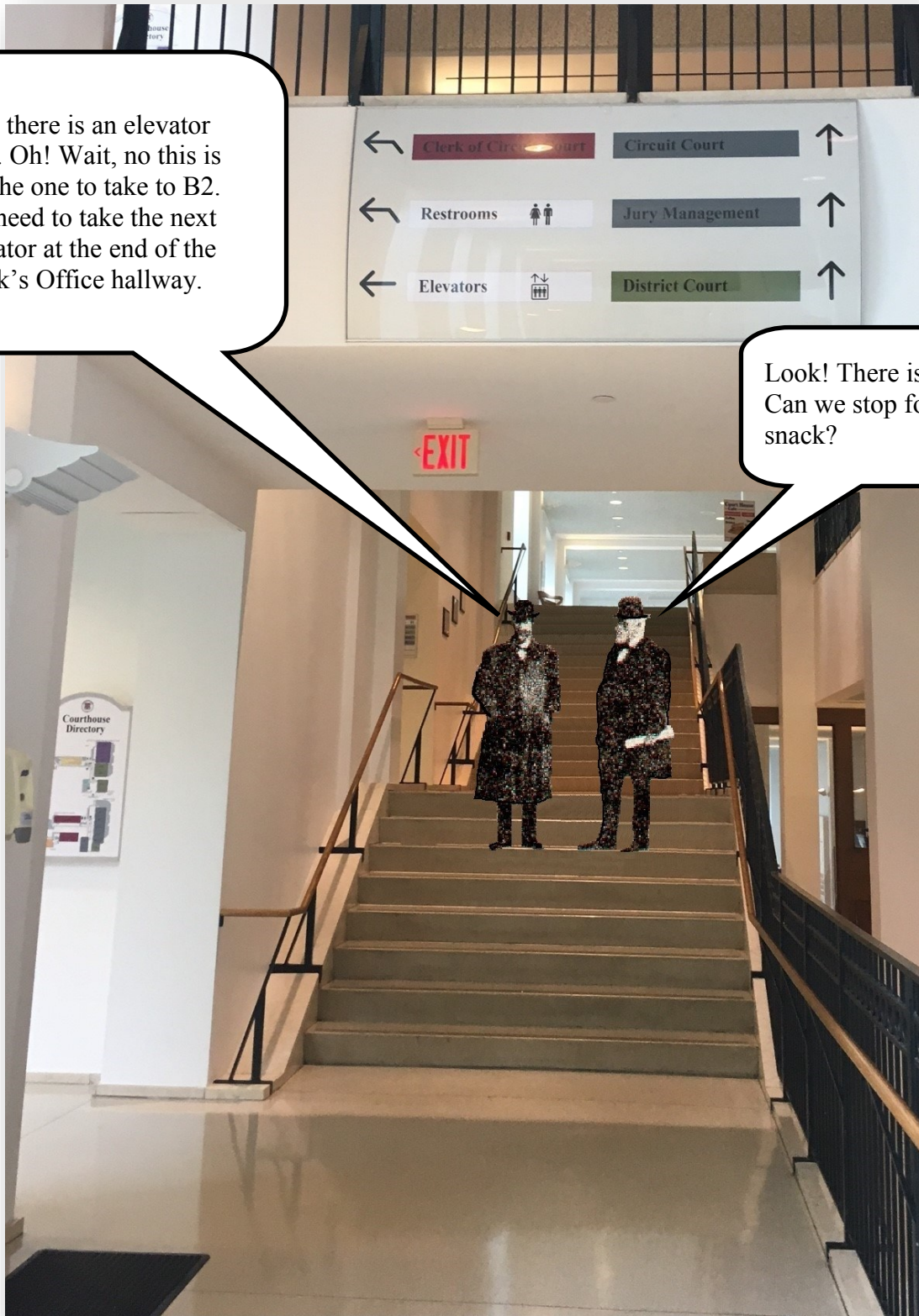
DUST
FACTS
FILM
FOLDERS
GENIUS OF LIBERTY
GOVERNMENT
INDEX
INK
LAND TAX BOOK
LAW
MARRIAGE LICENSE

MEDIA
MICROFICHE
NEWSPAPER
PLAT
PRINTING PRESS
RESIDENT
SCAN
SHILLINGS
SUBDIVISION
SUBSCRIPTION
WILL

I see there is an elevator here. Oh! Wait, no this is not the one to take to B2. We need to take the next elevator at the end of the Clerk's Office hallway.

←	Clerk of Circuit Court	Circuit Court	↑
←	Restrooms	Jury Management	↑
←	Elevators	District Court	↑

Look! There is a café. Can we stop for a snack?



Land Records & Deed Research

Loudoun is one of only a few counties in the Commonwealth that has records dating from its formation in 1757 when it split from Fairfax County. The Historic Records and Deed Research division includes court records from 1757-1980's and land records from 1757-present. Research can be conducted by using both in-house and online databases as well as paper indexes. Our staff can provide guidance and suggestions to start your research but **cannot provide research services or legal advice**. To prepare for your visit please review our online links to indexes and county databases which provide a starting point in your records research.

If you Visit the Archives

There is a court order that establishes court security protocols that serve the best interests of all visitors to the various courts and court-related offices in the Courts Complex. Therefore, electronic mobile devices such as cellphones with cameras, laptop computers, and electronic tablets are currently not permitted in the Courts Complex. To assist the patrons of the Historic Records/Archives research room, the Clerk's Office provides computer workstations with internet access so our patrons can review the websites of other historic records museums and historic records research organizations to assist with research needs in the Clerk's Office.

Historic Records and Deed Research Division wins the National Association of Counties Award for Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation

The Historic Records Division was honored to win the 2018 National Association of Counties Achievement (NACo) Award for Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation. NACO was founded in 1935 and is made up of 3,069 counties. This Achievement Awards Program seeks to recognize innovative county government programs. This prestigious award was presented to Historic Records for its public programs that promote and enhance awareness of the court's historic records. Historic Records was one of only six counties in the United States to win in the category of Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation. Ten counties in Virginia received awards from NACO, with Loudoun County departments winning in five different categories.



2018-2019 PROGRAMS AND NEWSLETTERS

First Friday June 1, 2018-Preservation Act IV

Learn from Historic Records staff and volunteers how the court records are conserved and made available to the public for research. The staff will demonstrate and discuss how records are preserved in-house and with contracted conservation companies.

First Friday October 5, 2018- Tales from the Crypt-Cemeteries in Loudoun County

Historic Records partners with Thomas Balch Library and Jeff Ball to display the history of Loudoun's public, private and family cemeteries.

Armistice Day One Hundred Years Later: Remembering Loudoun in World War I November 11, 2018, 11AM

100 years ago on the eleven month of the eleventh day at the eleventh hour the First World War came to an end. Marking this 100th anniversary and to honor our country's veterans, the World War I Committee will have a display of objects and papers on display about Loudoun's WWI veterans.

We were residents of Loudoun County: The voice of slaves from Loudoun County's Chancery Records, February 2019 TBD

In 2018, Historic Records started indexing slaves found in the 1757-1865 chancery cases. This exhibition will feature some of the unique records about slavery in Loudoun County found during this project.

All Open Houses will be held at: Court Complex 18 E. Market St. Leesburg Virginia



Have you had a chance to take the courtyard walking tour?

If not, you can pick up a courtyard map at the Clerk of the Circuit Court Historic Records, Thomas Balch Library, or the Loudoun Tourism Office.

You can also find the map online [here](#).